of Delhi has reported that there is some shortage of books and periodicals in their libraries due to increase in prices and general financial crunch.

(b) There has been no fall in the grants given for libraries to the University of Delhi by the University Grants Commission.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Against the grant of Rs. 55 lakh provided to the University of Delhi for purchase of books and journals during the 7th Plan period UGC has allocated funds amounting to Rs. 140 laks to the University for this purpose during the 8th Plan period.

Committee to look into Examination Reforms

867. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Committee to look into Examination reforms and prepare a National Examination Reform Framework by the end of 1993;

(b) whether any Examination reforms centre is also to be set up at the NCERT and if so the details thereof;

(c) what progress has so far been made in this regard; and

(d) whether Government propose to bring forward any legislation like U.P. where copying/cheating has recently been declared as a cognizable and non-bailable offence ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d) The Programme of Action (POA) 1992 identifying the strategies for implementing the policy postulates on examination reforms has recommended for constituting an inter-institutional Committee with representations from the University Grants Commission (UGC), the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), All India Council of Technical Education and the State level organisations including Boards of Secondary Education, to formulate a National Examination Reforms Framework. The specific contributions to be made by the NCERT in examination reforms at school stage in the present and future contexts, the feasibility of treating malpractices in external examinations as cognizable/non-bailable offences will emerge from the ensuing consultations when the Committee is constituted and its terms of reference finalised.

Cut in Grants to Universities

868. SHRI N. E. BALARAM :
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission had agreed to reconsider its decision to cut its grants to universities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delay in taking a final decision thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) Central Universities are fully funded by the Central Government through the University Grants Commission (UGC). A major share of UGC's Non-Plan budget is made available to Central Universities and Delhi Colleges for their maintenance expenditure. Keeping in view the present constraint on the availability of financial resources, Government had decided to maintain the level of Non-Plan expenditure of all Ministries/Departments and autonomous bodies during 1992-93 at the level of last year. This had imposed resource constraints on UGC as well as Central Universities.

In order to consider measures to mitigate the financial difficulties being faced by them, the Minister of Human Resource Development held consultations with Chairman, UGC and Vice-Chancellors of Central Universities in July, 1992. On the basis of these consultations, it has been decided in principle to provide additional grants to